

# District 6 Fact Sheet

Serving Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera and Tulare Counties

## State Route 41 Utica Grade Raise

Kings County

### Project Purpose:

State Route 41 is a rural principal arterial which serves as a major commercial and recreation connector between central and northern San Joaquin Valley and Central Coast communities. Within the project limits, Route 41 passes through the Kettleman Plain and crosses the intersection at State Route 33. State Route 33 is a minor arterial between the communities of Coalinga and Avenal to the north and Taft and Maricopa to the south. Because State Routes 41 and 33 were built no higher than the valley floor, rainstorms less than the 10-year event sends water flowing along or across both facilities, causing the highways to be closed and causing an inconvenience to the traveling public.

### Description:

This project, which will be build State Route 41 on new alignment where possible, a raised grade 2-lane conventional highway in Kings County from south of State Route 33 to just before Utica Avenue and on State Route 33 south of State Route 41.

The project will also include a signal at the intersection of State Routes 33 and 41. The proposed project will provide adequate passage of storm water and maintain the integrity of State Routes 41 and 33 while bringing the facility up to current design standards. The existing alignment will be abandoned upon completion of this project.

### Environmental Interest:

The project area was found to contain fossils of some environmental importance. There were fossils that included fish scales and leaves. The leaf fossils indicate a terrestrial environment in what was previously believed oceanic. A large variety of vertebrate fossils were found including shark teeth, possible shark vertebrae, two intact skulls of probably seal with portions of the body, skull fragments from a third individual, a jaw fragment with teeth, and a variety of vertebrate bone fragments including vertebrae of probably whale, and assorted limb bones, ribs, and teeth.

**Construction Cost:** \$ 12 million

**Construction Begin:** Fall 2003

**Construction End:** Winter 2004

### Funding Sources:

State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP)

### Agency Responsibilities:

Caltrans: Design, Planning, Right of Way acquisition, Construction Management

State of California Department of Transportation - District 6

P.O. Box 12616 Fresno, CA 93778

(559) 488-4067

[www.dot.ca.gov/dist6](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist6)

